

2. (Twice Amended) [The DNA sequence according to claim 1], An isolated DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ. ID NO:2;
wherein SEQ ID NO:1 comprises a first exon of an OCIF gene (residues 1173-1202 of SEQ ID NO:1), [and]
wherein SEQ ID NO:2 comprises a second exon of an OCIF gene (residues 130-498 of SEQ ID NO:2), a third exon of an OCIF gene (residues 4503-4694 of SEQ ID NO:2), a fourth exon of an OCIF gene (residues 6715-6939 of SEQ ID NO:2), and a fifth exon of an OCIF gene (residues 8668-9054 of SEQ ID NO:2), and
wherein said OCIF gene encodes a protein that inhibits differentiation or maturation of osteoclasts.

5. (Amended) [A] An isolated protein having an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:3, and having a molecular weight [determined under reducing conditions] of about 60 KD,
wherein said molecular weight is determined by SDS-PAGE under reducing conditions, and
wherein said protein inhibits differentiation or maturation of osteoclasts.

6. (Amended) A method for producing the protein of claim 5, the method comprising:
inserting a DNA [sequence] molecule into an [express] expression vector, the DNA [sequence] molecule having [comprising] a nucleotide sequence comprising [selected from the group consisting of] SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2; [and]
transforming a host cell with the expression vector;
culturing the host cell such that the protein is expressed [inducing expression of the protein] by the expression vector, and
isolating the expressed protein,
whereby the protein is expressed in culture and isolated therefrom.